

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS BRASILIA 000098

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR OES/SAT AND WHA/BSC  
STATE PLEASE PASS TO USITC FOR CHRISTOPHER MAPES AND DAVID  
INGERSOLL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ENRG](#) [EPET](#) [SENV](#) [TSPL](#) [KSCA](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: USITC TRAVEL TO BRASILIA FOR COLLECTION OF DATA ON  
SERVICES IN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION  
ABATEMENT

REFS: A) 04 STATE 247491, B) 04 BRASILIA 2953

1. (U) Summary: United States International Trade Commission (USITC) Senior International Trade Specialist David Ingersoll and International Trade Analyst Christopher Mapes visited Brasilia December on December 21-22, 2004, after visits to Rio and Sao Paulo to speak to Brazilian governmental entities on regulations governing air and noise pollution abatement and renewable energy services. The team met with officials at the Ministry of Mines and Energy in the renewal energy, petrol and natural gas divisions. They also met with the National Agency for Electrical Energy, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Superintendent for Waste Water Treatment in Brasilia. GOB policies seem to focus more heavily on the development of renewable energy sources, with less emphasis on the monitoring and resolution of air and water pollution problems. Sao Paulo and Rio will send separate reports. End Summary.

2. The Director of Renewable Energy Development at the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Laura Porto, explained the overall policy goals of the present Administration. As explained, the GOB intends to expand and diversify Brazil's energy sources, hoping eventually to increase the percentage of renewable sources in the matrix and decrease traditional fossil fuels. The focus now is on biomass, ethanol, hydroelectric and biodiesel. There is also a considerable push to decentralize energy sources, taking advantage of the potential for wind energy in the northeast, southeast for biomass (sugar cane), and hydro electric for small power plants in the south where they have good rivers. The Lula government is also focusing on services related to the treatment of wastewater, solid and hazard waste, cleanup of hazardous sites and water purification.

3. At the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Joao Souto, responded to questions about air quality issues. Nationally, air quality has improved. Although Brazil has been achieving a rapid reduction in the use of substances that destroy the ozone layer, burnings and forest fires, out of control in some instances, negate much of the positive that has been accomplished. Locally, the situation varies. Each municipality, he explained, can determine whether it wants to enact stricter regulations than those federally mandated. States and cities have enforcement powers.

On the issue of noise pollution, apparently, only the larger municipalities enforce the regulations. The Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Health set noise limits for workers.

4. At the Agencia Nacional de Energia Electrica, Alvaro Mesquita produced an Atlas of Electric Energy in Brazil, which included helpful sections on solar, hydro, biomass, mineral, natural gas and nuclear.

5. Others meetings included Victor Zular Zveibil, Secretary of Environmental Quality at the Ministry of the Environment and Dr. Klaus Dieter Neder, Superintendent of the waste water treatment in Brasilia.

6. The report on the Sao Paulo segment has already been sent, and the Rio de Janeiro report will shortly follow.

CHICOLA